



Week 5 Assignment

Overview

Throughout this course, we have examined the role and responsibilities of an educational technology leader in the 21st century information landscape. In Week 1, we looked at educational technology in terms of the Texas Long-Range Plan for Technology, the Technology Applications TEKS, and the Technology Applications Inventory. Our focus in Week 2 was on using data to make informed decisions and gathering data on educational technology through the Texas STaR Charts. Week 3's focus was on the needs of the "digital natives" we serve, online learning communities, and expectations for educators. In Weeks 4 and 5, we discussed online safety and the social, legal, and ethical issues confronting today's digital-age educators, students, and parents.

For your Week 5 assignment, you will consider the outcomes of this course and the extent to which the outcomes will influence your role as an educational technology leader in your school.

Follow these steps to complete your Week 5 assignment:

- Reflect on what you have learned in this course.
- Assume a school leadership role as an educational technology campus facilitator or as the district educational technology director. From that vantage point, compose a 150-word response to each of the guiding questions provided.
- Write reflectively instead of in question-and-answer style.
- Submit your reflections by the end of Week 5.

Rubric

Use the following Rubric to guide your work on the Week 5 Assignment.

Tasks ↓	Accomplished 5 The evidence suggests that this work is a "Habit of Mind." The educator is ready to mentor others in this area.	Proficient 4 The evidence suggests that performance on this work matches that of a strong educator.	Needs Improvement 3 The evidence does not yet make the case for the educator being proficient at this task.
Course Reflection	Student composes 150-word reflection on each question provided; reflections demonstrate extensive knowledge of course content.	Student composes 150-word reflections on 3-4 of the questions provided; reflections demonstrate adequate knowledge of course content.	Student composes two fewer reflections, and/or reflections exhibit a lack of understanding of course content.
Assignment Mechanics	Responses are relevant to course content; no errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation.	Responses are relevant to course content; few errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation.	Responses do not reflect knowledge of course content, lack clarity and depth, and/or include multiple errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation, including APA errors.

Week 5 Assignment: Course Reflections

What outcomes had you envisioned for this course? Did you achieve those outcomes? Did the actual course outcomes align with those that you envisioned?

When I began the course by completing the self-evaluation I was not sure what to expect. As I had experience with some of the items described in the evaluation, there were more items that I did not have prior experience with.

The outcomes I envisioned for the course involved the challenges of learning how to effectively use and integrate technology on my campus and in district for the purpose of improving student achievement and establishing a 21st century learning environment. The beginning of the course provided information that I had not previously known about the Texas Long Range Plan for Technology. The material that was discussed during weeks 2 and 3 were very resourceful, and I truly enjoyed the assignments that accompanied these weeks.

I believe I achieved those outcomes through the various readings, assignments, and activities that supplemented the course. I believe that the actual course outcomes that I envisioned before this class began aligned with what I envisioned that I would take away from the course content.

To the extent that you achieved the outcomes, are they still relevant to the work that you do in your school? Why or why not?

In the discussion forum and the articles I read, I gained a further understanding of the advancement of technology in schools and its affect on youth. Applying new blogging and website techniques was a great learning tool to better communicate with students at a quicker pace. The videos and reading material we covered in this class included various sources of learning methods, theories, success stories from other teachers and examples of how to use technology to create a 21st century learning environment. After watching and learning the positive effects of using a wiki, I created a lesson plan that involved the students creating an online newspaper by using a wiki. I think part of getting the students involved in more technology through education is getting the teachers more involved and excited about using the tools. This makes all of these tools relevant because they can be used in a classroom setting in a variety of subject areas. Learning about new technology methods and theories motivated me to encourage my colleagues to integrate technology into their classrooms.

What outcomes did you not achieve? What prevented you from achieving them?

I feel like I got so much more out of this class, than I ever could have anticipated so there is little I did not achieve. I thoroughly read all the articles taking notes in the margins and highlighting key points. I gained very valuable strategic ideas that will be useful to help integrate technology into the learning environment. I made the switch from a PC to Mac a little over a year ago, and discovered through this class the software and videos are not Mac friendly, I would have attained a higher level of achievement if everything was Mac friendly.

Were you successful in carrying out the course assignments? If not, what prevented or discouraged you?

This course required an enormous amount of time for me. I had to carefully manage my time between work, family, community, and graduate school, in order to turn in quality assignments. The assignments were all beneficial and relevant to my teaching assignment. There was not a reading assignment or video lecture that did not pertain to the course and the course goals and outcomes.

I was able to complete all of the assignments; however, I became frustrated with the vague – and sometimes confusing – directions. The best example was the directions for completing the “Wiki.” The step-by-step directions did not follow the current procedure for establishing a new wikispace. Finally, I would have liked to have seen an example or model to have an idea of what was expected. I am a visual learner, and it would have been very helpful to have a sample to examine.

What did you learn from this course...about yourself, your technology and leadership skills, and your attitudes?

As I reflect upon the things I learned from this course, these are the things that come to mind. I really enjoyed the readings from weeks two and three. The articles from Mark Prensky were very resourceful. I learned that I am a digital immigrant, but I do not have a bad accent. I discovered through reading the articles information that I passed along to my colleagues and in the process utilized my skills as a technology leader. I also found several innovative ideas that my peers in this cohort shared through the discussion board, and I plan on implementing these ideas in the future. Finally, Mark Prensky has left such a lasting impact on my thoughts about technology that I have recommended to our superintendent and school board that we contact him about the possibility of speaking to our staff at next years inservice.

